

RESOURCES

News about nature, history and horticulture in Fairfax County

Volume 1, No.4 Summer 2001



Summer Trails for You!

Did you know that there are more than 2,400 miles of trails in Fairfax County? They include bicycle trails, equestrian trails, mountain biking trails, hiking trails, neighborhood sidewalks accessing parks and the many nature trails within nature centers and parks.

Not only that, but planners are hard at work, constructing connections between existing trails to create longer pathways, looking at the Lorton/Laurel Hill area for trail possibilities and upgrading many trails by replacing surfaces and bridges and adding signs and directions.

And these trails are all out there waiting for you as the summer arrives and casual outdoor time is even more appealing. This year the land trails are being joined by a wonderful river-kayaking program at Riverbend Park! Call the park at 703-759-9018 for information.

So choose your sport and get out there! Safety is a top priority and guidelines for protecting the trails are important. Here are some examples of where the open road is calling you.

For bicyclers, there are three trails in three parts of the county. The longest is South Run/Burke Lake Trail, about 4.5 miles of asphalt bike-way out of South Run RECenter. It is recommended for families because it is fairly flat. If bicyclists wish, they can add the loop trail around Burke Lake itself for a one-way 7-mile ride.

The Accotink Creek Trail is 3 miles of gravel and asphalt, running from King Arthur Road to Pickett Road in the City of Fairfax. It is part of the future Cross County Trail, an ambitious 31.5-mile network of connecting trails and side trips currently in the planning stages.

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Plant Ambassadors for Sustenance and Delight

By Hale Ament, Historian Assistant, Sully Historic Site

This country is a "melting pot" of cultures in many different ways. Just as we benefit from the many diverse peoples who have created the United States, we also are the beneficiaries of a wide range of useful plant species from around the world. Plants that we take for granted often have had long and arduous journeys from China, Africa, South America and other places, some arriving more recently, others long ago. They are all now part of our world and have enriched this country for several centuries.

Plants for food, medicine and pleasure traveled as roots and seeds along with people from mountainous, desert and fertile areas, along ancient roads and by sailing ships (see accompanying story on page 6). Some plants common to us now first began their journey in antiquity from Asia and the Middle East. Others arrived during the age of exploration on Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, French and English ships after

Columbus discovered America. Other plants came from parts of Africa with the forced migration of enslaved Africans. For many plants, continents and oceans were crossed and recrossed.

Plants of different eras tell their own histories. Consider what plants an observer would have seen in late 18th century Virginia. The grounds and nearby trail at Sully Historic Site in Chantilly give you a first-hand look. Sully, currently managed as a late 18th century farm, has three representative gardens — for kitchen use, ornamental arrangements and slave quarter crops — and a trail with cultural and natural features.

The original farm tract at Sully, owned by Richard Bland Lee, contained acreage in assorted crops around 1800. An important one was wheat, a grain descended from 10,000 BC grain from the Jordan area of the Middle East. Another was corn, or maize,

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Summer Sizzlers

SPLISH, SPLASH!

What is more wonderful than water? Tadpoles, turtles and fish need water to live, lily pads need water to float, and water striders need water to walk on. Join us at Green Spring Gardens on Saturday, June 16, from 1:30 to 3:30 for a Family Fun program exploring the ponds and bog to discover watery creatures. After poking around the pond, we'll make some cool green "pond scum" shower gel to take home! Call 703-642-5173 for reservations; the cost is \$6 per child.

Fourth Annual Frying Pan Farm Show

This is a not-to-be-missed event for the entire family! Saturday, July 14, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., you can get to know different kinds of farm animals, talk to past and present farmers about the antique tractors they demonstrate, even see an old-fashioned tractor pull! Farm demonstrations include sheep shearing, goat milking and horse riding. A special kids' Farm Funland will have lots of free farm games and contests, including driving a pedal tractor, sitting on a saddle and climbing a haystack, even roping a calf.

The cost is \$5 a car, so bring the whole family!



Civil War Daily Life Reenactment

At Sully Historic Site on July 20 through 22 between 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., Federal and Confederate troops demonstrate the varied daily work of the infantry, artillery, cavalry and medical units during the war. Civilians show how life went on when husbands, sons and brothers marched off to war. Visit the weekend encampment and examine the living quarters and victuals of these hardy souls. House tour included. The cost is \$5 for adults, \$4 for students and \$3 for seniors and children. Call 703-437-1794 for more information.

The Work of their Hands



A special program at Sully Historic Site's representative slave quarter will take place on Wednesday and Thursday, July 18 and 19, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Demonstrators will perform the tasks done by tenant farmers, indentured servants and those enslaved at Sully around 1800. You can visit unique areas like gardens and outbuildings where the tasks are being done. A guided tour of the house is included. The program is \$3 for children and seniors, \$4 for students and \$5 for adults. Camp and preschool groups need reservations and may schedule as early as 10 a.m.



Geology Series on Pohick Stream Valley

Did you know that there are three distinct geologic areas in the Pohick stream valley alone? Geologist Cyril Galvin will tell you all about them over three sessions on Saturdays July 14, 21 and 28. Open to adults and 12-year-olds and older, this eye-opening exploration will cover the Upper Piedmont region, the Fall Line and Coastal Plain region. The sessions start from Hidden Pond Nature Center at 9 a.m. and run until 12:30 p.m., and \$40 prepaid reservations are required by July 11. Call Hidden Pond at 703-451-9588 and start learning how our natural landscape came to be.

For more information about our natural, historic and horticultural resources and for directions to visit parks, check our web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks.



Try your hand at wood carving!

Wood carving can bring out your artistic talents in a very tactile and satisfying way. This summer, on every first and third Sunday afternoon from noon until 4 p.m., a group from the Northern Virginia Wood Carvers will be at Colvin Run Mill to lend their tools and expertise to help you create a creature — or whatever you'd like — from a block of wood. Lessons are free and there is a nominal charge for wood blanks. Then tour the mill and see the larger-than-life wooden miller sculpted by the wood carvers. Tour costs range from \$2 to \$4, from child to adult. For more information, call 703-759-2771.

Evening Explorations at ECL Park

On many Wednesday evenings this summer, all kinds of things like dinosaurs of the Northern Virginia area, insects such as dragonflies, night birds like owls and the lives of Civil War soldiers are all explored at Ellanor C. Lawrence Park. These are free family programs and all you need to do is register. Call 703-631-0013 for the complete schedule of these exciting evening adventures!



RESOURCES

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PARTNERSHIPS: REFORESTING OUR URBAN STREAMS

By Jane Scully, Stewardship Communications

How do you save the Chesapeake Bay? One stream at a time. And saving a stream requires the expertise, leadership and cooperation of many groups using their particular resources in a carefully coordinated effort. Among those taking important initiatives are the Virginia Department of Forestry, with Judy Okay at the helm, and the Park Authority's Park Operations Division, headed by Tim White.

The stream in this case is Difficult Run. The challenges to improving water quality include conserving existing riparian buffers — areas of trees, shrubs or other vegetation adjacent to streams — and restoring new riparian forest buffers in the Bay watershed. These buffers play a critical role by filtering runoff, removing nutrients and sediment, supplying food and shade for living resources and moderating flood damage.

Difficult Run was given high priority by the county in 1993 because it is a critical environmental area undergoing rapid development. This has meant increasingly severe pollution potential from urban sources. Also, its entire 58-square mile watershed is within the county.

"Without the leadership and guidance of Judy and the Department of Forestry, our operation would not be able to handle these kinds of activities," reports Tim White. "They are the guiding light on the project, and we just kind of assist and work on their project teams."



"We have had terrific cooperation from the Parks Ops group," says Judy Okay. "They help us with access to the parks, getting permissions, clearing areas for access, even bringing mulch to a work site so our volunteers can get in to important planting areas."

The stream valley, one of many held in stewardship by the Fairfax County Park Authority, is maintained and managed by the Park Operations Division. The division has the equipment and facilities to maintain these areas, but no funding for projects such as stream preservation. Yet one of the major missions of the Park Authority is protection of the environment and reestablishment of natural areas impacted by ongoing development.

What Judy Okay and the Virginia Department of Forestry (VDOF) have is a commitment to riparian restoration, funding for materials — and the enthusiasm to bring in volunteers. Fairfax

ReLeaf and the VDOF did the first plantings in 1991. Both groups continue the riparian reforestation effort. Joined by "well over a thousand volunteers," Judy figures that groups have planted more than 17,000 tree seedlings since 1993.

The partnership is particularly important because, under the Chesapeake Bay Program, Fairfax County is obligated to achieve certain levels of stream improvement. As development has skyrocketed in the county, there is less green space to absorb urban and suburban runoff that goes directly into the streams. The flow of water from heavy rains and storms, no longer slowed by trees, shrubs and grasses, crashes through and over streambeds, causing erosion and adding even more sediment to the streams.

"To create riparian buffers, we have to conserve the forest base," notes Judy Okay. "We have to save functional units of forest,

clinging to these remnants we do have, and then plant to create links to make a greater whole." So far, of the 17,000 seedlings planted, 80 percent have survived, irrigated by flooding from the stream valley. Trees that were planted in 1993 are now 20 feet tall, already making a significant contribution to slowing down floodwaters.

The cooperation between VDOF and the Park Authority goes back at least a decade. Tim White describes the process. "We walk the site together, identify what some access points might be, identify any nuances of the property and what concerns neighbors might have. And we coordinate if a maintenance project is going on nearby, so a contractor won't unintentionally mow down all the hard work."

Judy has a talent for creating the citizen involvement needed to get the plantings in the ground. Neighborhood groups, high school students and scout troops all have taken part. "It's a real turn-around from when we started," Judy adds. "The Miller Heights neighborhood has been so active, they can plant 200 or 300 seedlings and don't even need any supervision."

In the end, Judy says, everybody wins. "It's a natural meshing of resources between a state agency and the local government. The parks own the land, the agency needs land to accomplish its goals, and both the land and the water quality benefit." That's good stewardship. 🌞

SULLY'S 28TH ANNUAL ANTIQUE CAR SHOW

By Barb Ziman, Sully Special Events Coordinator

Summer brings a busy and varied slate of activities to Sully Historic Site. One of the highlights of the summer at Sully is the Antique Car Show. Held on Father's Day, June 17 this year, it's a great way to spend quality time with Dad.

The show is co-sponsored by the Fairfax County Park Authority and The George Washington Chapter of The Model A Ford Club of America. More than 400 antique and classic cars will fill the grounds, and at the end of the day judges will award plaques and trophies to winners in several categories. You can buy the car of your dreams at the Car Corral or meander through the Flea Market looking for the perfect accessory, handmade craft or antique.

The Model A Ford club has designed and produced a commemorative pin for the show this year that will be sold for \$5. Treat Dad to a delicious lunch from one of our vendors and get your toes tapping to music by Fairfax Symphony's Dixieland Band and Jumpin' Jupiter, a '50s rock 'n' roll band that has become a car show favorite. New this year, dads accompanied by a child get \$1 off the regular admission price! ☀



Virginia's TimeTravelers...

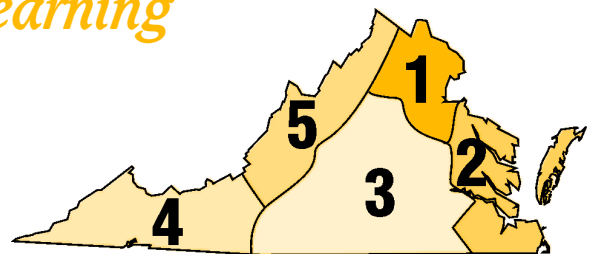
Your Passport to Exploration and Learning

By Ann Korzeniewski, Colvin Run Historic Site

People have always fantasized about being able to travel back in time. This year across Virginia, 257 museums and historic sites are working together to give students from kindergarten through 12th grade the chance to do just that. Virginia TimeTravelers, now in its fifth year, is coordinated by the Virginia Association of Museums (VAM) that encourages students, their families and friends to explore the many fascinating facets of Old Dominion history.

Beginning April 1, 2001, students are invited to pick up a TimeTravelers "Passport" — available at participating sites and online at www.timetravelers.org — and head out to explore the state. Just like world travelers, passports will be stamped at each destination. There is a friendly competition among sites over who has the most appealing passport stamp, and we had lots of fun coming up with a unique logo to represent Colvin Run Mill. Come visit us and check it out! All you TimeTravelers have until November 15, 2001, to collect six stamps out of the wide list of sites. When your passport is complete, send it to VAM and you will receive a TimeTravelers t-shirt and a certificate from Governor James Gilmore.

To help TimeTravelers discover Virginia's rich heritage, the state is divided into five regions. The Passport includes a list of destinations grouped by region. Admission to most sites is either free or discounted to TimeTravelers. This year, Region



1 includes 50 places to visit and five are Resource Management Division sites. When you visit Colvin Run Mill Historic Site in Great Falls, Sully and the Walney Visitor Center in Chantilly, Herndon's Frying Pan Park, and Green Spring Gardens Park in Alexandria, you will gain a broad perspective on Fairfax County's place in local and regional history. And you will almost completely fill your passport!

Colvin Run Mill Historic Site has participated since the first year of the program. Last year more than 200 TimeTraveling students toured the mill with their family and friends in tow. This is a great program for grandparents with visiting grandchildren, Scout troops and youth groups who want to explore their own backyards, and vacationers who plan to include museums in their itinerary. ☀

Stories of the Summer Stars

By Mona Enquist-Johnson, Volunteer and Interpretive Services

Summertime and the living is easy. When the sun sets, I sit back and watch the big screen above me — the heavens. Star gazing unleashes my imagination. I see a scorpion and a crown. A swan and an eagle take flight in the Milky Way. These constellations connect me to the past and to other cultures. They tell action-packed stories, full of legend and invention.

Stars can tell different stories in different cultures. Anglers are known for their tales of the “one” that got away. The Polynesian god Tonga is no exception. In fact, you can see Tonga’s mighty fishhook in the southern sky, low to the horizon. Why is it there? When trying to catch fish, Tonga failed. Instead, he fished the Hawaiian Islands out of the sea. In disgust he tossed the useless hook into the sky.

Others see this same constellation not as a fishhook but a scorpion. With its stinger raised, this is the animal that killed brave Orion. Justice prevails in the heavens, however: the constellations Orion and Scorpius never appear together.

My favorite summer constellation is the beautiful horseshoe-shaped Corona Borealis. This shimmering jewel composed of seven stars could be the bridal crown for Princess Ariadne, daughter of

King Minos. Native Americans see a circle of chiefs seated around the council fire or the cave of the heavenly bears. Wonderful images either way.

During the summer the Milky Way is a glorious river of light. The Cherokees call it, “where the dog ran.” It is the trail of a giant dog that plundered precious meal. Frightened by the angry villagers, the dog leapt into the sky with corn meal dripping from his mouth, marking his path.

To Estonians, the Milky Way is a flowing bridal veil. The beautiful maiden Lindou, who had charge of the birds — their paths and dwelling places — was unable to marry her betrothed, the Northern Lights. The gods instead placed Lindou, dressed in her shimmering wedding garb, in the sky to be near her lover. From there Lindou directs her birds on their long migrations.

Stories abound in the summer sky. Set your imagination loose. Look for shapes and pictures in the heavens. If you don’t see a fish-hook or a cave, don’t worry. Just relax and let the stars tell their tales. ☀



FIGHTING INVASIVES IN YOUR OWN BACK YARD

By Alice Horner, Natural Resource Protection

are among them. These plants can “jump the fence” and grow in forest, marsh, meadow or stream habitat, taking the place of native plants that support native wildlife.

What you do in your own backyard can help protect parks and the local habitat.

- Beautify your yard, garden, and borders with native plants. Try planting black gum, northern or southern red oak or white oak where you desire very tall shade trees. Shorter ornamental trees and tall shrubs include serviceberry, black haw, arrowwood, fringetree, American hazelnut and red chokeberry. Try maple-leaf viburnum where you’d like a shorter shrub. Use Virginia creeper (bright-red in fall), wild stonecrop and the native phloxes for groundcover. Cardinal flower will add vibrant red to gardens and borders.
- Never dispose of yard or garden waste in parks. This practice is an encroachment on park property that introduces non-native seeds or plant parts into native habitat. Piles of yard waste smother tree roots and native wildflowers.

- Dispose of invasive plant material in regular Fairfax County trash. This material is burned at the I-95 waste-to-energy facility. All other plant material can be safely composted on your property or left for Fairfax County yard waste pickup.
- Become a grasscycler. Mow your lawn more often and let the grass sift down into the soil, enriching your lawn and leaving no grass clippings.

For more information, try these resources:

ResOURces Online at www.co.fairfax.va.us/resources has more information about the background and habits of troublesome invasives.

For more on suggested native plants, call Green Spring Gardens Park at 703-642-5173 or at www.greenspring.org. A new *Bulletin: Invasive Plants and What You Can Do to Help* has just been printed.

Or call the Department of Conservation and Recreation: Division of Natural Heritage at 804-786-7951 or www.dcr.state.va.us/dnh/index.html. The Virginia Native Plant Society at 540-837-1600 or at www.vnps.org is a very helpful resource as well. ☀

Some exotic species are not as loved as the ones described in our *Plant Ambassadors* story. Others are causing increased harm to our natural heritage. Their names may surprise you! English ivy, porcelainberry, burning bush, purple loosestrife, privet, Japanese barberry and Norway maple



Pirates and Plants

By Dea Schofield, Green Spring Gardens Park

Ah, the peace and tranquility of the garden! Looking around at the delicate bleeding heart amid an array of hostas and pulmonaria in dappled shade, do we wonder how it first came from its native China? Its graceful, nodding blossoms do not hint at the extreme dangers overcome by the man who risked his life to introduce it to the West. His adventures, and those of many others, are responsible for much of what we find in our lovely, peaceful gardens.

Robert Fortune was a 30-year-old botanist/horticulturist first sent to China by the Royal Horticultural Society in 1843. He learned about Chinese gardening and collected new seeds and plants during his four trips to China. Along the way, however, he endured terrible storms and harsh adventures.

On one trip, Fortune was collecting tree peonies and weigelas when a gale nearly capsized his small sailboat. On another voyage, a three-day storm battered the ship, causing a skylight to fall on him. At another time a 30-pound fish crashed through a skylight, and the storm destroyed many of the plants he had collected.

Because the Chinese were suspicious of foreigners, Fortune often disguised himself on his trips. On one occasion when he failed to do so, his junk was attacked by pirate boats that returned to strike again two days later. Already sick with fever, Fortune managed to fight them off.

Fortune's legacy is the 120 new species he brought to the western world from China and Japan. These include jasmine, forsythia and honeysuckle, beautiful staples of fragrant gardens.

Another famous European plant explorer was Sir Joseph Banks, who accompanied Captain James Cook on his circumnavigation of the globe. He collected and recorded plants along the route. Storms, hostile Portuguese cannon fire, cold and exhaustion at Tierra del Fuego ravaged his party. Later they traveled to New Zealand, Australia, Java and South Africa. They endured scurvy, venereal disease, hostile natives (including cannibals) and malaria. Only two of Banks' own men survived.

The Banks' legacy, however, is said to include 7,000 species (if you see a *Banksia* in a plant name, he's your guy; Australia is full of *Banksias*). His work is a critical part of botanical identifications.

A current exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History, details the grueling nature of such "Voyages of Discovery," and runs until July 22. It covers three centuries of British exploration and is drawn from the collection of the Natural History Museum in London. For more information, call 202-357-2700. ☀

► Plant Ambassadors continued from page 1

a grain with ancestors going back to 6000 BC Mexico. These two essential grains were Mr. Lee's main cash crops, along with a smaller, non-food crop of the New World plant, tobacco.

Why tobacco? The modern story of tobacco began with seed from either Tobago, the West Indies or Tabasco, Mexico, carried by a Dutch sea captain to Portugal. There it was acquired by an agent for France, Jean Nicot, and brought to England as *Nicotiana tabacum*. Coming back across the Atlantic, it was introduced into

Virginia and its herbal medicinal value was much touted. In his 1649 publication, *The Complete Herbal*, Nicolas Culpeper noted tobacco as a medicine for rheumatic pain, as the active ingredient in an ointment for piles, in an oil to be applied for toothache and to revive people from apparent drowning. Look for an example of the tobacco plant in the Sully kitchen garden.

Vegetables whose journeys

began in the Old World include asparagus, onions, leeks, cabbage, collards, lettuce and beets. The routes of travel varied. Cabbage and collards, for example, are different forms of the same species with probable origins in colder European regions. The head type of cabbage came to America with early European and English immigrants. It is likely that collards, considered to be the earliest form of cabbage and eaten by the Romans, evidently worked its way to Africa and from there to America. Look for the cabbage in the kitchen garden, and the collards in the slave quarter's garden.

The formal garden flowers, representative of the time and locality, have equally interesting backgrounds from Old and New Worlds and the Far East. Some marigolds from Mexico naturalized in North Africa and became known as African marigolds; others had a stop-off in France and became known as French marigolds. Over the summer look for varieties from Mexico, Peru, India Europe and Asia. Others are considered "natives," and have their own local travel stories. Come to Sully and see if you can identify the histories within this wonderful "melting pot" of vegetables, fruits, flowers and plants. ☀



Flea Market to Benefit Volunteers

The Resource Management Division is hosting a flea market on Saturday July 28 from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Frying Pan Park in Herndon, rain or shine. Come join the fun and participate in one of two ways (or both ways!):

☀️ Turn your trash into cash! Clean out the dusty corners of your attic and garage and bring your used goods to sell. The vendor fee is a mere \$20. Register early by calling 703-324-8750.

☀️ Shop 'til you drop! Bring your wallet and peruse the selection. Shoppers can find one-of-a-kind treasures at bargain prices.

This recycling and reusing event helps the division fulfill part of its mission to preserve the natural resources of Fairfax County. Proceeds from the vendor fees will benefit the division's Volunteer Program by helping to train and recognize our valued volunteers. Over 700 volunteers work tirelessly throughout the county parks leading tours of historic properties, teaching children about nature, tending gardens, protecting our natural resources...the list goes on and on! Show your support for these amazing individuals and have a good time yourself by joining us on July 28! ☀️

PROGRAMS ABOUT HISTORIC PLANTS

Join us on Saturday, July 7 at Green Spring Gardens Park Manor House, from noon until 2 p.m., go to a Soup-and-Sandwich program that will tell you more about the hazardous journeys undertaken by botanical adventurers to bring back plants from foreign lands. Listen to the stories and learn about the origins of your favorites as well as the perils of plant hunting. This by-reservation program, "The Hunter and the Hunted," offers dessert and tea or coffee. The \$18 prepayment can be made by credit card at 703-941-7987.

On Sunday, August 26, at a Tea Program at Green Spring Manor House from 1 to 3 p.m., Collections Manager Jeanne Niccolls will speak about her considerable work on historic plants. Jeanne will discuss 18th century Fairfax County-area garden plants and look at some of their descendants that we see today. The full English tea program requires reservations and an \$18 prepayment that can be made by credit card at 703-941-7987. ☀️

► Summer Trails *continued from page 1*

The third trail is in the Sully District, accessible off the Fairfax County Parkway or at Greenbriar Park and Stringfellow Road. It runs 2.5 miles to Ellanor C. Lawrence Park through Rocky Run Valley Park, ending at Cabell's Mill. The stream valley is lovely.

If you find yourself at Ellanor C. Lawrence, the Walney Visitor Center there has a wonderful variety of walking and hiking trails on its grounds. Begin at the Smokehouse near the visitor center where you can pick up a trail map and take the 1.2-mile route through the wildflowers and trees. You can see the remnants of old farms, depressions that probably were old roads, berms that were watering holes and many other mysteries of history to explore. Other trails run through the area, and a large fishing pond is stocked for your pleasure.

Every nature center has its trails, with wildlife, plants and trees to intrigue you on your walks. Hidden Pond has an amazing vantage point above the pond, where you can watch birds, see animals digging for food or fun, and flowers galore. The many trails lead through the woodlands, with surprises around every turn.

Then there is the spectacular Huntley Meadows boardwalk. It's a popular birding spot. Go early, both to see more birds and to avoid the heat. Or late as the sun is fading and the birds begin settling in. There is an entrance from South Kings Highway that brings you in on a good set of trails to the other side of the meadows.

While the Fairfax County Park Authority does not rent out horses or provide riding lessons, riders can pick from several equestrian trails.

Among them are two sections of the Rails to River Trail. The natural surface trail begins at the W&OD trail and runs through Lake Fairfax Park and approximately 3 miles along Colvin Run to Route 7. Just north of Route 7, the trail continues along Difficult Run about 3.5 miles all the way to Great Falls.

Also, the Northern Virginia Regional Park Authority manages trails like the W&OD Trail. At Clarks Crossing in Vienna, horse trails wind through the park to join with the W&OD. Call NVRPA for more information at 703-352-5900.

For more information about county trails, visit our web site at www.co.fairfax.va.us/gov/ocp/trails. Zoom in on your neighborhood and check out the blue and red trails marked, or check by quadrant of the county that you'd like to explore. Whether hiker, biker, rider or jogger, please remember you are sharing the trail with others. Summertime should be safe as well as fun. ☀️



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OR: subscribe through our web site at
www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks/resources.htm

YOUR PARKS

Here are some of the parks where summer sizzles!

Burke Lake Park
7315 Ox Road, Fairfax Station
Call 703-323-6600

Colvin Run Mill
10017 Colvin Run Road
Great Falls
Call 703-759-2771

Ellanor C. Lawrence Park
5040 Walney Road, Chantilly
Call 703-631-0013

Frying Pan Park
2709 West Ox Road, Herndon
Call 703-437-9101

Green Spring Gardens Park
4603 Green Spring Rd., Alexandria
Call 703-642-5173

Hidden Oaks Nature Center
7701 Royce Street, Annandale
Call 703-941-1065

Hidden Pond Nature Center
8511 Greeley Blvd., Springfield
Call 703-451-9588

Huntley Meadows Park
3701 Lockheed Blvd., Alexandria
Call 703-768-2525

Lake Accotink Park
7500 Accotink Park Rd., Springfield
Call 703-569-3464

Lake Fairfax Park
1400 Lake Fairfax Drive, Reston
Call 703-471-5414

Riverbend Park
8700 Potomac Hills Street
Great Falls
Call 703-759-9018

Sully Historic Site
Sully Road, Chantilly
Call 703-437-1794

Need directions? More information?
Visit us online at: www.co.fairfax.va.us/parks

Summer Highlights

Music with your Garden Picnic

Ah, summer! On three Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m., Green Spring Gardens Park will play host to a series of free summer garden concerts. Come and bring a picnic and listen as music from the Fairfax Symphony drifts over the garden. June 20 features the String Quartet; July 11 introduces Brass Quintet; and August 4 welcomes the Woodwind Quintet.

Ice Cream Making at Colvin Run Mill

Everybody gets to help crank the old-fashioned ice cream making machines to produce the most delectable ice cream you ever worked for. This free program will be held on June 23, July 14 and 28 and August 11 and 25, all Saturdays, from noon to 4 p.m. at the mill. Ice cream samples are 50 cents and you can tour the historic mill for an extra cost. For more on this summer treat, call 703-759-2771.

Kayak the Potomac!

By popular demand, Riverbend will run several levels of kayak trips this summer. Imagine yourself sitting above the water in a one-person kayak and actually paddling it gracefully down the river! No experience is necessary for many of the tours; others do require more paddling skills. Reservations and prepayment of \$20 a person are required. Tour groups are small, only 10 people. Weather and river conditions dictate possible cancellations. Call Riverbend at 703-759-9018 and get ready!

Hayrides at Frying Pan

Any day is a good day for a relaxing hayride through the woods and fields of the county's last remaining dairy farm. Bring the kids on the 20-minute ride and hear about the plants and animals living at the park. Call Frying Pan at 703-437-9101 for exact dates and times. Cost is \$2 per person.



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